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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE YEAR 1965

A. W. PRINGLE,
B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B. H. BURNE,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (To 30/11/65)

G. F. SLOCOMBE,
M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (From 1/12/65)

W. EWART RUSE,
A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,

BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

ERRATA

- Page 7 1st paragraph - line 1. 'Dysentry' should read 'dysentery.'
 2nd paragraph - line 2. 'Dysentry' should read 'dysentery.'
- Page 16 Sewage Disposal Works. 2nd line. Insert 'an' between 'producing' and 'effluent.'
- Page 23 3rd line from bottom of page. 'Eightly-three' should read 'eighty-three.'
- Page 25 2nd paragraph - line 1. 'Hopd' should read 'hoped.'
- Page 28 Line 3. 'Actute' should read 'acute.'
-

HEALTH COMMITTEE
(Constituted May, 1965)

Councillor R. D. Hall (Chairman)
Councillor N. Thompson (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor J. T. Blyth, J.P., (Mayor)
Alderman G. Davies (Deputy Mayor)
Alderman H. D. Smith
Councillor H. Cordery
Councillor C. G. Cousins, J.P.
Councillor P. Flower
Councillor Mrs. Hindley
Councillor R. S. Pearce
Councillor Mrs. D. F. Roberts

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A. W. Pringle, B.A., M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

B. H. Burne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (To 30/11/65)

G. F. Slocombe, M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H. (From 1/12/65)

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

W. Ewart Ruse, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.

SENIOR ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Douglas Andrews, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.


ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Dennis W. Rixon, C.R.S.H.

Kenneth E. Evans, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., H.N.D. (BLDG.)

CLERICAL STAFF

Miss V. Slingsbury
Miss L. Rickard



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Borough of Aylesbury

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, AYLESBURY

June, 1966

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

The increase in the estimated population during the year of just over one thousand will cause no surprise. Nor, indeed, will any of the vital statistics apart from the increased number of illegitimate births which, when expressed as a percentage of the total live births, is higher than the same percentage for England and Wales, and the fact that thirty-one more people died of coronary disease of the heart than during the previous year.

The amounts of the increases in these two quite unrelated figures suggest that they will probably not be sustained at their present levels in the coming year, but the trends upward are unfortunately not exceptional, and both in their different ways are to some extent symptoms of present day living.

Apart from these there are only minor variations in the figures and rates, and the general picture in so far as it is portrayed by the statistics is an encouraging one.

Food Hygiene

Although many of the owners and managers of food shops and restaurants are now conscious of the need to maintain high standards of hygiene, it would be unwise to think in terms of selective inspections only. Routine visiting is time consuming, but worthwhile because even when high standards are maintained there is a need to give support to those enforcing hygiene measures which are not always popular with their staff.

Routine visits to hotels, restaurants and food shops were therefore continued throughout the year.

A further course on food hygiene was run at the Aylesbury College of Further Education during the year. It was not so well attended as the previous one, although there are still food handling concerns who have not sent representatives to any of these courses.

Tuberculosis

The table below shows that there was a further small decline in the tuberculosis rate during 1965:—

Year	Population	New Cases		Rate per 1,000 of Population
		Total	Respiratory	
1955	21,330	18	18	0.84
1956	21,800	17	16	0.73
1957	22,360	16	14	0.63
1958	22,960	16	11	0.48
1959	23,580	22	17	0.72
1960	24,410	12	6	0.25
1961	27,040	5	5	0.18
1962	29,090	10	7	0.24
1963	31,030	17	15	0.48
1964	32,510	9	7	0.22
1965	33,680	9	6	0.11

In my Report last year I outlined briefly the arrangements made by the Ministry of Health for the follow-up of newly arrived immigrants. The quarterly returns to the Ministry made during the year show that no new cases of tuberculosis were notified as a result of these visits, and also that considerable difficulty was experienced in interviewing immigrants, either because they were not known at the address which was given at the port of entry, or had since moved to another address. However, those who were interviewed must have benefited from the information and advice given by the Health Visitors.

The Mass Radiography Service, which is under the direction of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, do not intend carrying out further mass radiography of the general population at present, but continue to carry out surveys of employees of firms and institutions in the Borough. The service is also available for patients referred for chest x-ray by their general practitioners.

Venereal Disease

Figures obtained from the Royal Bucks Hospital of persons resident in the Borough and attending the special clinic show that only two new cases of syphilis and eighteen new cases of gonorrhoea were treated throughout the year. There were, however, seventeen more patients infected with other venereal diseases.

Arrangements were made for all post offices in the area to display notices giving the address of the special clinic. The Medical Social Worker attached to the clinic continued to follow up cases and advise on social problems.

Other Notifiable Diseases

In June, 1965, several cases of sonnei dysentery were notified in the sma⁷ housing estate situated at the back of H.M. Prison. With the active co-operation of everyone concerned it was possible to contain the outbreak to a total of fourteen cases.

In early December it became evident that an outbreak of sonnei dysentery which had been affecting villages to the north and west of Aylesbury was converging on the Borough. It was possible to warn general practitioners and heads of schools of the likelihood of cases occurring and to outline measures to prevent spread of infection in the community. However, in the remaining three weeks of the year as many as seventy-four cases of sonnei dysentery were notified, mainly in the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft areas, which gave little chance of successfully containing the infection. The main emphasis had to be placed on excluding food handlers from work and school children from school until negative laboratory tests were obtained. In this way it was possible to avoid major outbreaks in schools, and there was never any evidence to suggest that the infection was being spread by those involved in the food industry.

The lesson is clear. It is that the majority of people are careless in observing the simple rules of personal hygiene. Put in plain language sonnei dysentery is spread from bowel to mouth and unless hands are washed after going to the lavatory the path of infection will not be broken and the infected person will pass on the disease to someone else. The hands of a healthy person may also become infected by grasping a contaminated flushing handle or lavatory door handle, but again, provided they wash their hands they will avoid infection. In a situation such as this the use of the old type of roller towel, which means that hands are repeatedly dried on the same area of the towel, has its obvious dangers.

Children are taught and encouraged to practice sound personal hygiene at school. It used to be that the object of this teaching could be frustrated by lack of facilities in their homes, but this cannot be so now. Perhaps the rising generation will have acquired the habit and will wash their hands automatically without having to be reminded to do so by notices. If not, they may become painfully aware of the necessity to do so by increasingly frequent outbreaks of sonnei dysentery.

There were two cases of food poisoning during June due to salmonella typhimurium. No definite connection between them could be demonstrated although both cases were living near to each other at the relevant time.

The first case was a woman who had shared items of diet with her family except for some liver which she had for her evening meal and enjoyed undercooked. She developed food poisoning symptoms on the following day and was admitted to the Isolation Hospital. It was not possible to recover any of the liver for laboratory examination, but by process of elimination it can be assumed to be the source of infection.

The second case occurred in a Children's Home and was a child recently admitted to care. Prior to admission the child had lived with his mother near to the first case and developed symptoms about a week later. The mother had temporarily left the district, but it is possible that she herself was infected from the same source as the first case and passed the infection to her child. Neither case was seriously ill and no further cases arose.

There were fewer cases of measles notified than in the previous year. A measles vaccine has been developed which has been shown in trials to confer

some immunity, but its use will be limited to those whose state of health indicates that an attack of measles would have serious consequences. Further trials are taking place and when more information is available about the duration of the immunity it will be considered whether the vaccine is suitable for general immunisation.

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their continued advice and support throughout the year, and the Borough Public Health Inspector and all members of the Public Health Department for their willing co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. PRINGLE,

B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	3,594 acres
Population (estimated mid-1965)	33,680
Number of inhabited houses (at end of 1965 according to Rate Books)	9,857
Rateable Value	£1,917,768
Sum represented by a penny rate	£8,023

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births:—

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			397	342	739	351	358	709
Illegitimate			23	25	48	34	33	67
						1964		
Rate per 1,000 population						24.21		
Rate (corrected)						20.58		
Rate for England and Wales						18.4		
Illegitimate live births (per cent. of total live births)						6.10		

Still Births:—

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			9	6	15	2	4	6
Illegitimate			—	—	—	1	2	3
						1964		
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births						18.70		

DEATHS

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Deaths			142	105	247	160	129	289
						1964		
Rate per 1,000 population						7.60		
Standardised Rate						10.49		
Rate for England and Wales						11.3		

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate			5	3	8	7	4	11
Illegitimate			—	1	1	—	1	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

		1964	1965
All infants per 1,000 live births		11.44	15.46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...		10.83	15.51
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...		20.83	14.93
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales ...		20.0	19.0

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	...	...	5	2	7	5	2	7
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	1
						1964	1965	
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births						10.17	10.31	

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age:—

			1964			1965		
			M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Legitimate	...	...	4	1	5	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	—	1	1	—	1	1
						1964	1965	
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)						7.62	9.02	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)						26.18	20.38	

Maternal Mortality:—

Number of deaths (including abortion)	...	...	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	—	—

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS

	M	F
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	2
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	19
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	9	11
Coronary disease, angina	54	23
Hypertension with heart disease	3	3
Other heart disease	12	12
Other circulatory disease	4	8
Pneumonia	7	9
Bronchitis	8	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—

Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	16
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	1
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	-
										<hr/> 160	<hr/> 129

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospitals

During the year the Royal Bucks, Tindal General and Stoke Mandeville Hospitals have provided accommodation for surgical and medical cases, whilst the Isolation Hospital continued to admit persons suffering from infectious diseases.

Stoke Mandeville Hospital also provided accommodation for paraplegic cases.

The above hospitals situated in the Borough are administered by the Royal Buckinghamshire and Associated Hospitals Management Committee, who are responsible to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Pathology Laboratory, Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Routine samples of milk, ice cream and water and other specimens requiring bacteriological examination were sent to this Laboratory throughout the year. Reports were received with the minimum delay, and the help and advice given by the Medical Director were much appreciated.

Ambulance Services

These are provided by the Bucks County Council, and are under the direction of the County Medical Officer. Ten ambulances and four dual purpose vehicles were available at the Ambulance Headquarters, Buckingham Road, for use in the Borough and surrounding districts. There is two-way radio link between all vehicles and Headquarters.

The majority of long distance journeys are carried out by train, stretcher cases being accommodated in reserved compartments. All casualties in the Borough are conveyed to the Casualty Department of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Clinics were functioning during the year:—

<i>Times open</i>	<i>Clinic</i>	<i>Number of attendances</i>	<i>Number of children attending</i>	<i>Sessions</i>	<i>Doctor attended</i>
75	Pebble Lane	2,171	515	Every Tuesday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Each Session
31	Quarrendon	1,578	387	Every Wednesday	1st, 2nd & 4th Wed:
24	Southcourt	629	147	1st and 3rd Wednesday	Each Session
71	Limes Avenue, Tring Road	4,048	724	Every Monday, 2nd and 4th Wednesday	Each Session
<u>201</u>		<u>8,426</u>	<u>1,773</u>		

Besides advice on the health of infants and toddlers given to individual mothers, there were talks on a variety of health subjects for groups at the Clinics. Courses of immunisation against smallpox, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were available or could be given by the family doctor. Almost all parents who attended the Clinics were anxious that their children should have the maximum immunity against these diseases, but there was still a minority of the population who failed to take this advantage.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Notifications received			Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	
	1964	1965		1964	1965
		Male	Female		
Measles	527	142	116	1	—
Whooping Cough	14	4	4	—	—
Dysentery	14	61	47	2 } 7* }	— } 18* }
Scarlet Fever	2	6	6	—	—
Pneumonia	2	1	1	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	3	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	1	1	—	2
Ophthalmia					
Neonatorum	—	1	1	—	2

*Manor House

**Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during the
year with analysis under age groups**

	Under 1 year	1-2 years	3-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-65 years	Over 65 years	Age Unknown	Totals
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	3	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	12
Whooping Cough	—	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Measles ...	5	66	99	84	4	—	—	—	—	—	258
Dysentery ...	3	17	14	32	14	10	15	3	—	—	108
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Age Groups:—				
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—(1)
15—	—	—(2)	—	—
25—	—(2)	2(1)	1	1
35—	—(1)	—	—	—
45—	1	—	1	—
55—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	1	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
Total:	3(3)	3(3)	2	1(1)

The figures in brackets denote the number of cases notified originally in other districts, and who have moved into the Borough during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE
No. 1 Unit, Oxford Regional Hospital Board
Report of survey carried out on staff
at Stoke Mandeville Hospital,
on 11/1/65

Summary of Work						Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	...	85	116	201
No. requiring further investigation	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	...	64	64	128
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	...	21	52	73
Results of cases requiring further investigation								
Pneumonitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Normal	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
						—	3	3

Report of survey carried out at Aylesbury Firms
on 24/6/65 and 16/7/65

Response: 77%

Summary of Work

						Male	Female	Total
No. of miniature films taken	...	...	...	...	...	211	109	320
No. referred to chest clinic	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	...	170	59	229
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	...	...	...	...	...	41	50	91
Results of cases referred to Chest Clinic								
Healed pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Azygos lobe	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
						2	—	2

Summary of newly discovered significant cases of Tuberculosis

Group	No. Examined	Active P.T.	Inactive P.T.
D.C.A. Ltd. ...	32	—	—
Electroloid Ltd. ...	35	—	—
Industrial Sections Ltd. and F.T. Products Ltd. ...	160	—	—
Klockner Moeller Ltd. ...	34	—	—
Mourton Ltd. ...	32	—	—
Precision Engineers ...	6	—	—
F. Samuels Ltd. ...	21	—	—
Total : 320		—	—

**Report of survey carried out on staff
at Stoke Mandeville Hospital,
on 15/7/65**

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	50	150	200
No. requiring further investigation	—	3	3
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	36	102	138
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	14	48	62

Results of cases requiring further investigation

Previously known sarcoid	—	1	1
Hypertension	—	1	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	—	1	1
	—	3	3

**Report of survey carried out at
H.M. Prison, Aylesbury, on
1/10/65**

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	135	—	135
No. referred to Chest Clinic	1	—	1
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	108	—	108
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	27	—	27

Result of case referred to Chest Clinic

Normal	1	—	1
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**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>
Staff	13	—	—
Prisoners	122	—	—
Total:	135	—	—

**Report of survey carried out on staff
at Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, on
21/10/65**

Response: 63%

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	47	127	174
No. referred to Chest Clinic	—	—	—
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	39	98	137
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	8	29	37

**Report of survey carried out at
Manor House Hospital, Aylesbury,
on 22/10/65**

Response from staff: 51%

Summary of Work

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of miniature films taken	29	130	159
No. referred to general practitioner	2	2	4
No. previously examined by M.M.R.	13	108	121
No. not previously examined by M.M.R.	16	22	38
Cases referred to general practitioner			
Acquired bony abnormality	—	1	1
Congenital cardiac abnormalities	2	1	3
	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 4

**Summary of newly discovered significant
cases of Tuberculosis**

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. Examined</i>	<i>Active P.T.</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.</i>
Staff	77	—	—
Patients	82	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	159	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the Borough is obtained through the Bucks Water Board from wells situated at Dancers End, New Ground, Hawridge, and High Wycombe.

Sampling has been carried out during the year by the Water Authority at their wells and also in the town.

Thirteen samples of water were taken from the main service by this Department during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory. In one instance it was found that a shop in the town was using well water, which, on sampling, was found to be unsatisfactory, and the necessary steps were taken to connect the shop to the main supply.

All houses in the Borough are connected to the main supply and the quantity of water supplied to the town is adequate.

Drainage

Although the whole of the surface water has not been separated from the foul drainage within the central area, it can be assumed that the Borough is drained on the separate system.

Sewage Disposal Works

The new Sewage Disposal Works constructed at the confluence of the Bear Brook and the River Thame is producing effluent well within the Thames Conservancy's standard. Sludge disposal is by means of tankers and is distributed in liquid form on surrounding farms.

Public Cleansing

Refuse disposal is carried out by controlled tipping at Calvert, thirteen miles on the Bicester side of Aylesbury. The new controlled tip has been in operation since May, 1964, and is proving satisfactory.

A comprehensive salvage collection scheme is in operation. The Corporation has now purchased a further suction type sweeper, which is dual controlled, and both sweepers have proved themselves invaluable during the year.

Open-Air Swimming Pool, Park Street

The water in the pool circulates continuously throughout the period of use, being filtered and chlorinated before re-introduction to the swimming pool. Seventy-six samples of water were taken for chlorine content and pH value during the summer months.

Hot Baths

Attendances at the Hot Baths, adjoining the Swimming Pool at Park Street, amounted to a total of 3,612 during the year. The total for 1964 was 4,032

Schools

The water supply and sanitary accommodation to all schools in the Borough are adequate.

Local Rainfall

January ...	2.14 ins.	July ...	3.13 ins.
February ...	.31 ins.	August ...	2.19 ins.
March ...	1.67 ins.	September ...	3.20 ins.
April ...	1.91 ins.	October ...	.40 ins.
May ...	1.56 ins.	November ...	2.18 ins.
June ...	2.07 ins.	December ...	3.64 ins.

(Figures supplied by Mr. B. G. Hannay,
Borough Engineer and Surveyor)

Mr. Hannay stated that the total rainfall for the year was 24.40 ins, which is about 7 inches more than in 1964, but comparable with the yearly average of 24.72 ins. Rain fell on 179 days in 1965, compared with 139 days the previous year.

The readings for July, September and December were the highest for 5 years, whilst that for October was the lowest for that month for 18 years.

The highest daily recording occurred on 25th September—1.29 inches.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Other Foods

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	959	190	30	2,194	2,078
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	8	19
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	110	7	—	147	367
Percentage of number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	11: 57%	4.21%	3.33%	7.06%	18.58%
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	18
Percentage of number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	0.21%	—	—	—	0.87%
Cysticercus Bovis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Twelve licences were issued to slaughtermen during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Informal action has been taken where necessary under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, to remedy contraventions of the requirements of this Act in mechanical and non-mechanical factories and workplaces.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES Act, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health

	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without mechanical Power	62	—	—
Factories with mechanical Power			

2. Defects found—Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises

There are twelve outworkers' premises in the town, all of which are in a satisfactory condition.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Aylesbury

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1965. The figures in brackets denote work carried out during 1964.

HOUSING

Some progress was made in connection with slum clearance during the year, the properties in the Oxford Road Area being demolished and the re-housing of the occupants of the Mount Street Area being substantially completed. Three further Areas, Walton Green and Walton Place, St. John's Road, and Park Street, were represented to Committee in November and December, but the administrative work was not completed and the declaration of the Areas not made at the end of the year. One house was closed during the year under the provisions of section 16 of the Housing Act, and a Closing Order in respect of one house was determined on completion of work to make the house fit.

So far as is known by the Department there are eighty-five houses in multiple occupation in the town, but as will be seen from the table at the end of this section the number of visits paid to these houses is out of all proportion to the actual number of houses concerned. This is inevitable from the nature of the occupation, and is also in part accounted for by the necessity for re-inspections with regard to the adequacy of means of escape in case of fire. Fifty-five formal notices requiring works in this connection were served during the year. There is still no legal obligation on an owner to notify the use or intended use of a house for multiple occupation, and in most cases the Department only hear of new multi-occupation houses when a complaint is received, either from the occupant or a neighbour concerning the condition of the house. The general standard of these houses is still reasonable, but in one case gross overcrowding and a lack of reasonable standards of management were found, and the question of making a Management Order in this connection was under consideration at the end of the year. All houses known to be in multi-occupation are kept under review, and all steps necessary to ensure that reasonable standards are maintained in the houses are taken.

An inspection of the Victoria Park area of the town was made, as required by the Housing Act, 1964, with a view to deciding whether compulsory action to secure the improvement of the houses should be taken. Two hundred and nine houses were inspected, of which one hundred and fifty-two (consisting of eighty owner-occupied houses and seventy-two tenanted houses) were found to be without the full standard amenities. All the properties were considered to be capable of improvement, and to have a life of not less than 15 years. The Council agreed, in principle, that the area was suitable for definition as an improvement area, but before formally declaring it they decided that informal action should be taken in an effort to secure the improvement of as many houses as possible by voluntary action.

Three cases in which rent books had not been supplied, as required by the Landlord and Tenant Act, were reported during the year, but following informal action by the Department the necessary rent books were supplied.

The general work carried out by the Department under the Housing Act is set out in the following table:—

Number of houses inspected	304	(82)
Visits paid to above houses	362	(177)
Informal Notices served	37	(30)
Statutory Notices served	1	(1)
Miscellaneous housing visits	45	(65)
Multi-occupation housing visits	241	(162)

Houses repaired:—

By owners	27	(21)
By the Borough Council in default	—	(—)

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

As previously stated in my Annual Report, the work done by the Department specifically under the Public Health Acts is relatively small, the majority of the work of the Department being carried out under other Acts, although it will generally be found that the subject matter of the various Acts has a distinct bearing on the health of the populace in general. The main duties now remaining under Public Health Acts are drainage works and nuisances, and the majority of the statutory notices served under this heading relate to these matters.

Number of houses inspected	61	(48)
Visits paid to above houses	143	(129)
Drainage visits	510	(474)
Drainage tests	22	(80)
Nuisances found	125	(148)
Nuisances abated	125	(148)
Informal Notices served	12	(—)
Statutory Notices served	12	(18)

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Complaints still continue to be received from time to time concerning the use of chimes on ice cream vehicles outside the permitted hours. One vendor was reported both by the Police and by the Department on two separate occasions for using his chimes outside the permitted hours. The case was prosecuted, and resulted in a fine of £2 in respect of each offence.

The noise nuisance from the factory referred to in my last Report, whilst it was the source of a number of individual complaints at various times during the year, was not so serious a problem as it was last year. Early in the year a visit was paid to the factory one evening with two housewives in the neighbourhood who had complained, and a consultation with the management took place. Following this there was a period of some months when no complaints were received, and on the two or three occasions later when complaints were made it was discovered that there had been departure from the procedure laid down by the management to avoid noisy practices at night. The experiments referred to in my previous Report which consisted of the delivery to the factory from a source outside of molten metal for casting, thus avoiding the use of the smelting furnaces on site, which were largely responsible for the noise nuisance, proved satisfactory, and steps were taken to obtain molten metal in this way as a regular feature, by which means it was hoped to eliminate the need for using the furnaces at night at all. Although this was not fully achieved by the end of the year, efforts are still being made to this end.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

It will be noted from the Report that whilst the number of mechanical factories is increasing, the number of non-mechanical factories remains static. The duties of the Department in connection with mechanical factories is limited to the inspection of conveniences, whilst all other aspects of cleanliness, heating, ventilation, etc., in such factories is in the province of the Factory Inspector. Visits are from time to time made to the factories in the town, particularly food factories, in connection with food hygiene visits and to all factories where canteens are provided in connection with those facilities. All these visits are included in the section of the Report connected with food and food hygiene, so that the number of visits shown under this section is not a true reflection of the visits actually made to factories.

Mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	114	(110)
Non-mechanical factories on register requiring visiting	16	(16)
Visits paid to factories	62	(68)

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

As will be seen from the particulars concerning the registrations and visits made in connection with this Act, this is becoming an increasingly important part of the Department's duties. The Technical Assistant appointed for this work left in the early part of the year when he emigrated to Australia, and for the remainder of the year the work has been carried out by the District Inspectors.

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number receiving a general inspection during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Total number of persons employed
Offices	19	62	132	1,233
Retail Shops	12	115	203	1,371
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	1	7	14	283
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens ...	3	5	18	267
Fuel Storage Depots	—	—	1	32

Two hundred and fifty-six visits were made in connection with the Act during the year, and one hundred and fifteen informal notices were served, six of which were complied with by the end of the year. The majority of these notices referred to minor infringements of the Act, i.e., provision of thermometers, first-aid boxes and similar matters. Three accidents were reported, none of which were fatal. In one case a cleaner going to empty the wastepaper baskets slipped on a rocking coal chute cover and injured her ankle. Steps were immediately taken to secure the replacement of the defective cover. The second case concerned an employee who slipped on coming from the refrigerator, and no action was necessary in this instance. In the third case a male employee placing stock on a high shelf was using a ladder on which the rope broke. Advice was

given in this instance to replace the rope with nylon string, or provide some other form of steps which would be of firmer construction.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Eighteen visits were made during the year in connection with the above Act. Three informal notices concerning hours of closing were served on shop-keepers and all were complied with.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS AND DISINFESTATION

Once again the figures for work carried out in this connection stress the importance of the work. Although there has been a slight decrease in the number of visits paid to the various categories they are still higher than for 1963, and the number of rat and mouse bodies found following treatment show that this is one matter in which constant vigilance is needed to keep rodent pests under control. Eighty-five man holes were tested during the year, but only one instance was recorded where partial take of the bait was apparent. Even this gives rise to some doubt, and it would appear that control of rats in the sewers is fairly well under control.

The income from the agreement service for the treatment of factories and shops shows a slight increase, and this part of the service is appreciated by those firms who participate in it, and does give worthwhile service in preventing any infestation which might occur from growing to large proportions before it is dealt with. Work carried out on business premises not covered by agreement is charged for, whilst a free service to private householders is continued.

Complaints of rats in roof spaces continue to be received, and as reported last year, this has conclusively proved to be due to the practice of connecting rainwater down pipes directly to the surface water drains without the provision of a gully at the foot of the rainwater down pipe. I feel that in order to prevent this happening some steps will have to be taken to ensure that rats from the water course into which the surface water system discharges cannot find their way up the connecting systems to the houses.

Reports have appeared from time to time of infestations of rats which are immune to warfarin, which so far has proved one of the most effective rodenticides ever evolved. Fortunately the warfarin resistant populations are confined to two main areas in the country, one in Scotland and one on the Welsh-English border, and there is no evidence so far to suggest that the resistant rats are spreading beyond the areas already known to exist. This matter is being kept under constant watch by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food experts, who are making strenuous efforts to contain the resistant rats in the areas they at present occupy, and I feel that at the moment there is no need to fear the evolution of a resistant strain in this area. Steps are always being taken to evolve new rodenticides, and there is already on the market, albeit at a somewhat high price, an alternative rodenticide which could be used should evidence of resistance to warfarin appear in this area.

As previously stated, work in connection with the destruction of wasps nests depends largely on the weather conditions prevailing in the year under review, and in 1965 eighty-three nests were destroyed compared with seventeen in the previous year.

I regret to say that vermin infestation other than rodents showed a marked

increase in the year, seventeen infestations being reported. These consisted of five infestations of bed bugs, four of fleas, and the remaining eight concerning ants, cockroaches, mites and beetles. In each case the premises were suitably treated, and no evidence of re-infestation has occurred.

Forty visits in regard to pest control were made during the year, but as mentioned above, these included visits in connection with infestations of ants, cockroaches, mites and beetles, in addition to the bed bugs and fleas.

A summary of the work carried out under this Act during the year is appended:—

Private Premises treated	...	...	...	195	(202)
Business Premises treated	...	...	...	103	(122)
Local Authority Premises treated	...	...	...	19	(26)
Rat bodies found	...	...	...	526	(637)
Mouse bodies found	...	...	...	268	(261)
Points laid — Private Premises	...	...	...	521	(642)
Points laid — Business Premises	...	...	...	591	(593)
Points laid — Local Authority Premises	...	...	...	105	(162)
Manholes treated	...	...	...	85	(82)
Visits made by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	116	(117)
Wasps Nests destroyed	...	...	...	83	(17)

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action towards the setting up of further smoke control areas was taken during the year because of the difficulties in regard to supplies of smokeless fuels. During the year a fresh appraisal of the supply situation was made by the Ministry of Power, when it was found that the forecast made in 1963 of an overall shortage of solid smokeless fuels had been too pessimistic, and that the efforts of the private companies engaged in this field and of the National Coal Board in augmenting existing, and developing new types of solid fuels had resulted in a production which was sufficient for the foreseeable future. In addition to this improved supply position, the National Coal Board concentration depot in Aylesbury was virtually completed by the end of the year, and it was hoped that this would be in full operation well before the winter of 1966. In view of this arrangements were made to commence work on a further smoke control area in 1966.

Following inspection of the Bedgrove Smoke Control Area several contraventions of the Order were noted in that smoke was issuing from chimneys, and letters were sent to the persons concerned drawing their attention to the fact that it was an offence to burn coal within that Area.

With the exception of the fumes from International Alloys few complaints of nuisance from industrial chimneys were received, and in those instances where complaints were made, informal action was sufficient to secure compliance with the Act.

One hundred and thirty-seven visits were made in this connection during the year, three informal notices were served and all complied with.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The measurement of atmospheric pollution at the four stations in the Borough in connection with the national survey was continued during the year with the exception of the month of August when the two stations in Schools were closed down.

The pattern of pollution throughout the district remains substantially as previously stated, i.e., the lightest pollution in the Bicester Road Area, the heaviest in the Town centre, with the areas around the Grammar School and Oak Green coming somewhere between these two extremes.

I had hoped to prepare tables for this Report showing the variation in pollution, both between the different areas in the Town and in the different months, but unfortunately, the monthly averages take some time to prepare, and the latest which I have are for the year ending March 1964, and only give averages for part of a year for the Grammar School and Oak Green Stations, so that any comparison could not, at the moment, be for a full year. I hope to rectify this omission in my next Annual Report.

FOOD

Slaughterhouse

Slaughtering is still confined to the one slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough, and conditions under which the meat is slaughtered and prepared are satisfactory and comply with the Regulations in force.

All meat killed is inspected in accordance with the Regulations, and meat passed as fit for consumption is stamped in such a manner as to indicate the Local Authority area in which it was inspected and the identity of the Inspector. Although the number of animals slaughtered has fallen from 7,418 to 5,451, the number of visits paid to the slaughterhouse has only fallen from 478 to 450, and the hours worked outside normal office hours from 185 to 154, which includes inspection on three Saturdays.

With reference to the table showing the number of animals killed and inspected and the numbers and percentages affected with disease, it is noteworthy that the numbers and percentages affected by all diseases except tuberculosis show a substantial decrease in the case of cattle (excluding cows), and cows, a decrease of 1% in the case of calves, and increases of around 1% in the case of sheep and lambs, and pigs. When we turn to carcasses affected with tuberculosis only, there were only two such carcasses amongst the cattle and eighteen in the case of pigs. Because of the reduction in the number of cattle killed, the percentage increase seems rather high at 0.13%, whilst in the case of pigs, the percentage affected has fallen from 1% to 0.87%. It is interesting to note that the two cattle affected with tuberculosis were minor infections in which an organ only was condemned, and in neither case was the animal sent in under the Tuberculosis Order. In fact, of all the tuberculosis reactors sent to the slaughterhouse none was found, on post mortem examination, to be affected with tuberculosis.

In addition to the detailed tables of causes of condemnation which follow, two carcasses were found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis*, the affected parts being condemned and the carcasses transferred to cold storage before being released for human consumption.

Twelve slaughtermen's licences were issued during the year.

Number of animals slaughtered and inspected during 1965

Quarter	Cows	Other Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1st ...	52	255	16	490	571	1,384
2nd ...	46	256	3	288	533	1,126
3rd ...	50	200	—	487	481	1,218
4th ...	42	248	11	929	493	1,723
Total: ...	190	959	30	2,194	2,078	5,451
Totals for 1964 ...	240	1,241	139	3,605	2,193	7,418

Table showing condemned organs of animals

CATTLE

	Liver	Head	Tongue	Lungs	Heart	Spleen	Mesentery
Distoma Hepaticum	259	—	—	3	—	—	—
Pleurisy	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Abscessed	60	—	—	6	1	1	—
Inflammation	3	—	—	35	3	8	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	7	—	—	—
Cavernous Angioma	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Cirrhosis	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fibrosis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cystic	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Parasitic	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congestion	—	—	—	4	—	—	—
Hepatitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oedema	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
Cysticercus Bovis ...	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Actinobacillosis ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—

T.B. Reactors

Distoma Hepaticum ... Liver
1

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Pyæmia	1
Emaciation and Oedema	1
Total:	2

SHEEP

	Liver	Head	Pluck	Lungs	Heart
Parasitic	127	—	—	—	—
General Emaciation	—	3	3	—	—
Distoma Hepaticum	12	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1
Oedema	—	—	2	—	—
Inflammation	—	—	2	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

General Emaciation	3
Oedema and Inflammation	3
Septic Metritis	1
Acute Enteritis	1
Total:	8

PIGS

	Lungs	Heart	Liver	Pluck	Head	Kidney
Pleurisy	2	2	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	91	9	—	9	—	—
Parasitic	1	—	193	1	—	—
Congestion	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	4
Oedema	—	—	—	4	—	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	18	—
Pericarditis	—	6	—	1	—	—
Cysts	1	—	—	—	—	5
Hydronephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	4
Abscessed	—	—	—	1	2	—
Haemorrhagic	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cirrhosis	—	—	2	—	—	—
Uraemia	—	—	—	1	—	—
Septic Peritonitis	—	—	—	1	—	—
Inflammation	27	25	—	6	—	—
Pyæmia	—	—	—	1	—	—

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Oedema	9
Actute Pneumonia and Peritonitis ...	1
Uraemia	1
Septic Peritonitis	1
Pneumonia	2
Pyæmia	2
Multiple Abscessed	1
Haemorrhagic and Fevered	1
Septicaemia	1
Total: ...	19

CALVES

	Head	Pluck
Oedema	1	1

Carcases Condemned (including all offal)

Oedema	1
---------------	---

Weight of Condemned Meat and Offal

	<i>lbs.</i>
Cow Beef	305
Cow Offal	156
Other Beef	1,190
Other Bovine Offal	4,748
Pork	1,848
Pig Offal	1,173
Mutton	337
Sheep Offal	299
Veal	33
Calf Offal	8
Total :	10,097

Total: 4 tons 10 cwts. — qtrs. 17 lbs.

Total for 1964: 7 tons 3 cwts. 1 qtr. 16 lbs.

The amount of foodstuffs surrendered and disposed of from wholesale and retail premises in the Borough as a result of inspections carried out, often on request from shopkeepers, follows:—

	WEIGHT		NUMBER
	lbs.	ozs.	
Fresh Fish	484	9	—
Fresh Meat	2,749	6	—
Cheese	39	14	—
Eggs	61	14	278
Tinned vegetables	564	12	2,981
Tinned Fruit	6,447	13	2,208
Tinned Meat	1,196	11	929
Tinned Fish	263	8	411
Tinned Milk	119	2	81
Preserves	47	—	46
Miscellaneous	2,765	—	2,184
Total:	14,739	9	9,118

Total Foodstuffs condemned during the year:—

Meat and Offal	4 tons 10 cwt. — qtrs. 17 lbs. — ozs.
Various Foodstuffs	6 tons 11 cwt. 2 qtrs. 11 lbs. 9 ozs.
Total:	11 tons 1 cwt. 3 qtrs. — lbs. 9 ozs.
Total for 1964	10 tons 6 cwt. 3 qtrs. 14 lbs. 2 ozs.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The only duty now remaining with the Borough Council under this heading is that of registering milk retailers. The milk distribution trade is now confined to the distribution of milk in bottles and containers as received from wholesalers, and supervision by this Department is very much less important than it was in previous years. Nine visits only were made to dairy premises during the year. Milk producers are licensed and controlled by the County Agricultural Committee acting as agents for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ICE CREAM

One hundred and eleven premises in the area are registered for the sale of ice cream, in addition to which a number of vendors who are not subject to registration tour the streets in various vehicles selling ice cream and ice lollies. The majority of the ice cream sold in the Borough by the various retailers is produced by a relatively small number of large manufacturers, and it is therefore unnecessary to take a large number of samples to check the methods of production. Thirty samples of ice cream and one ice lolly were submitted for analysis during the year and were graded as follows:—

Grade 1 — 23 samples
 Grade 2 — 2 samples
 Grade 3 — 4 samples
 Grade 4 — 1 sample

The one ice lolly was satisfactory.

Thirty-nine visits were paid to registered ice cream dealers premises during the year.

FOOD SHOPS, RESTAURANTS, ETC.

The general standard of cleanliness and hygiene in food premises was again found to be satisfactory, but in the case of one restaurant repeated requests to secure an improvement in the state of the kitchen proved unavailing, and eventually the Proprietor was prosecuted under the Food Hygiene Regulations. A fine of £5 on each of two summonses relating to the condition of the kitchen at this restaurant was imposed, and following the Court case work was put in hand and the necessary improvements secured.

As mentioned in the Medical Officer of Health's Report, a course of lectures on food hygiene was run by the College of Further Education, in which both the Medical Officer of Health and I participated. Not all who commenced the Course completed it, but twelve persons took the examination of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, and all were successful in obtaining the certificate. I feel this is a step in the right direction, for, as I mentioned in my last Report, it is the task of impressing the need for food hygiene on the staff which is the most important aspect of this problem. The table setting out the inspections made in this connection follows:—

Market Stalls	...	...	660	(683)
Grocers	...	...	153	(197)
Butchers	...	...	27	(81)
Restaurants	...	...	45	(37)
Fishmongers	...	...	23	(16)
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	46	(17)

Seventeen informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations during the year, nine of which were complied with by the end of December.

WATER SUPPLY

Every house in the Borough is supplied with piped water obtained from the Chiltern Hills by the Bucks Water Board.

Thirteen samples of water were taken from the main service during the year, all of which proved to be satisfactory. In one instance it was found that a shop in the town was using well water, which, on sampling, was found to be unsatisfactory, and the necessary steps were taken to connect the shop to the main supply.

A complaint was received from one house of discolouration of the water. Ordinary bacteriological samples proved satisfactory, but the matter was referred

to the Bucks Water Board who took two samples for chemical analysis, when it was found that the condition complained of was due to electrolytic action set up between the copper service pipe to the house and the galvanised iron piping in the house.

PETROLEUM

No difficulties have been experienced in connection with the storage of petroleum in the Borough. Particulars of licences issued and quantities licensed to be stored are as follows:—

Licences issued for storage of Petroleum Spirit and Mixtures ...	67	(70)
Licences issued for storage of Carbide of Calcium	1	(1)
Inspection of Petrol and Carbide Stores	91	(63)

Quantity Licensed to be stored:—

Petroleum Spirit	180,344 galls	(178,194 galls.)
Petroleum Mixtures	4,240 galls.	(4,240 galls.)
Carbide of Calcium	300 lbs.	(300 lbs.)
Total of Licence Fees	£64.15.0	(£66.5.0)

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The public conveniences in the Town were maintained throughout the year in a satisfactory condition. The standard of cleanliness continued to be criticised by the official visitors, and eventually, after attempts to gain improvement with the staff employed, it was found necessary to dismiss a man in charge of the outside conveniences. Difficulty was found in securing a replacement, but eventually a man was engaged and almost immediately an improvement in the condition of the conveniences was noticed. The damage and disfigurement referred to in previous years continued, and despite all efforts to catch the culprits, no case has come to light where sufficient evidence was forthcoming to take a prosecution for this malicious damage.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other work of the Department not covered by any of the previous headings include the following:—

Miscellaneous Public Health Visits ...	450	(604)
Interviews	1,343	(1,064)
Complaints received and investigated ...	217	(199)
Infectious Disease Visits	74	(23)
Smoke Visits	44	(64)
Marine Stores Visits	—	(2)
Moveable Dwellings inspected	2	(—)
Pet Animals Act visits	27	(29)
Public Convenience visits	713	(491)

Eight scrap metal dealers were registered during 1965.

GENERAL

The only change in the staff of the Department which occurred during the year was that Miss C. Campodonic left in January, and was replaced by Miss L. Rickard, who has proved entirely satisfactory. The whole of the staff carried out their duties in their usual efficient and cheerful manner, and I should like to pay tribute to their continued loyalty.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council and Committee for their continued confidence, and to fellow Officers for their help and assistance always readily forthcoming.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

W. EWART RUSE, A.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.,
Borough Public Health Inspector

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